



WASHINGTON COUNTY
Chamber of Commerce

August 19, 2019

Secretary Bureau
Pennsylvania PUC
Commonwealth Keystone Building - 2nd Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg PA 17120

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SECRETARY'S BUREAU

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Comments for a Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission (PUC) public comment period on pipeline regulation. Docket: L-2019-3010267

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the 1,100 members of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, I would like to provide public comment on requirements for periodic public awareness meetings. We have witnessed local pipeline companies such as Energy Transfer consistently engage with local chambers, counties, townships and the general public to discuss pipeline safety.

We have been impressed, yet not surprised, with Energy Transfer's commitment to keeping the community informed on everything related to the Mariner East project-from routes to construction, conversion, and the operation of each line. By proactively reaching out to local county leaders and community organizations to answer questions and address concerns, they have more than proved their dedication to open communication. In addition, they send out a monthly email newsletter about Mariner East news and regularly respond to hundreds of emails and phone calls. Energy Transfer demonstrates that proactive communication with stakeholders is a top priority.

In addition to their open communication, their stakeholders have much to gain from the good work of pipeline companies. Pennsylvania families, businesses and manufacturers have already welcomed countless economic benefits from new energy infrastructure. Since the shale revolution began in the Marcellus region in 2006, Pennsylvania residents have saved more than \$30.5 billion over 10 years from lower natural gas prices made possible through quick gas delivery via pipeline to the marketplace. These savings are significant for the 1.6 million residents living at or below the poverty line, who spend over a quarter of their income on heating and electricity bills and other energy expenses.

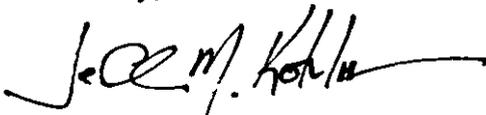
Pipeline construction not only allows Pennsylvanians to save money on heating their homes during the winter, it is also bringing jobs home and creating economic impact. The industry has added over 12,000 well-paying jobs with the median annual salary at a top producer exceeding \$113,000 in 2017. The Mariner East projects specifically play a huge role in revitalizing the Marcus Hook Industrial Complex as a natural gas liquids distribution hub-sustaining nearly

10,000 jobs each year. Overall, the natural gas and oil industry has contributed nearly \$44.5 billion to our state's economy.

When it comes to public awareness and positively impacting the local community, our local pipeline companies are being proactive and transparent. The information locals want access to is widely available and we find it unnecessary to change the public awareness requirements for pipeline projects.

Rather than creating unnecessary hurdles between Pennsylvania families and a better future, we should focus on streamlining the permitting process and reducing unnecessary legal barriers in our state-not increase the regulations that disincentivizes investment. The current process works and is the best path forward for the businesses and families across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,



Jeff M. Kotula
President

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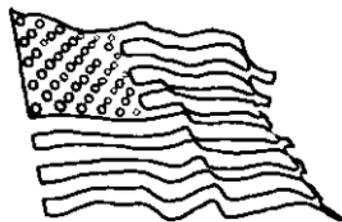
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